

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
Fiscal Year 2027 Member Request Guidance**

Programmatic and language requests are due by FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. EST
CPF submission deadline on THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. EST
Members must post CPF requests on their websites on FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026, at 6:00 P.M. EST

General Guidance:

The general procedures for submitting Member requests are in the “Dear Colleague” letter from Chairman Harris dated **FEBRUARY 25, 2026**, as well as the **FEBRUARY 25, 2026**, “Dear Colleague” from Chairman Cole.

This document provides guidance on submitting Community Project Funding, programmatic, and language requests for Fiscal Year (FY) 2027. All Community Project Funding (CPF) requests must adhere to the eligibility requirements outlined in this guidance document to be considered for FY 2027 funding. Please review this guidance in its entirety prior to submitting Member requests. It is important to ensure the information is entered accurately, so that the requests may be properly considered.

Similar to prior years, offices must use the House Appropriations Committee’s database <https://appropriationssubmissions.house.gov/> for all Member requests. Please ensure that all field entries are complete and accurate. No printed materials will be accepted. Member offices may not submit requests on behalf of another office.

If you encounter problems with the Committee’s database or have technical questions, please email Approp.ITMemberRequest@mail.house.gov. For general questions regarding this guidance, please email AG.MemberRequests@mail.house.gov.

Member Request Letters:

Offices must **upload a single, signed Member letter addressed to Subcommittee Chairman Harris and Ranking Member Bishop that includes all CPF, program, and language requests** for the FY 2027 Agriculture Appropriations bill.

Member letters should provide enough information to clearly identify each request entered in the database and **include a priority ranking of CPF, program, and language requests in the Ag bill** that matches the priority ranking you entered in the database.

If your Member signed a multi-Member or delegation request letter, that request must be entered into the online database for each signee **and** be included in the Member’s signed letter and prioritized accordingly.

Financial Disclosure Certifications and Federal Nexus Statements – Community Project Funding Requests:

Offices must upload signed Member letters addressed to Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro for each CPF request certifying that the Member and the Member’s “immediate family” (defined as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, husband, wife, father-in-law, or mother-in-law) do not have any financial interest in the requested project.

In addition, the letter must state the federal nexus of the requested project. The Subcommittee suggests referencing these statutes below when making the federal nexus statement for the following types of Community Project Funding requests:

Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities

- This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in 7 U.S. Code section 2250.

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations

- This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized by the Soil Conservation and Allotment Domestic Act of 1935, 16 U.S. Code sections 590a-590d and 590f-g.

Rural Development, Rural Housing Service, Community Facilities Grants

- This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a).

Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, Water and Waste Grants

- This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 306 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, 7 U.S. Code section 1926(a)(2).

Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

- This project has a federal nexus because it is for the purposes authorized in Section 2331 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, 7 U.S. Code section 950aaa.

TEMPLATE FOR MEMBER FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE CERTIFICATIONS AND FEDERAL NEXUS STATEMENTS

To comply with House Rule XXIII, clause 17, and Committee guidance, below is suggested text for a statement of Federal Nexus and a Financial Disclosure certification to accompany **each** Community Project Funding request.

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the ___ (project)___ in Fiscal Year 2027. The entity to receive funding for this project is the ___ (name of the entity, NOT the name of the point of contact)___, located at ___ (address including street name, city, state, and zip code)___ . The funding would be used for _____. The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because _____.

The project has a federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized under ___(please use above referenced statutes as it relates to the specific CPF project)___.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family have any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

These statements must be on letterhead and must be signed by the Member. Members must post these letters publicly on their websites on **FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2026. Please prepare the certification on letterhead and upload a PDF of the signed document to the request database.**

Public Posting of Certification/Federal Nexus Letters – Community Project Funding Requests:

Following the end of the Committee’s three-week technical assistance review period, Member offices must post their financial disclosure certification and federal nexus letters publicly on their website for all CPF requests on **April 3, 2026**. The posted information must also include: (1) the name and address of the proposed recipient (*Note – this is not the name of the point of contact, but the name of the entity receiving the CPF*); (2) the amount requested; and (3) a description of the request to include the purpose of the funding and justification for use of taxpayer funds.

Members must provide the Committee with a link to the Member’s webpage containing this information when they enter the request into the Members’ Request database system. The Committee will include links from all Members submitting CPF requests in a single location on its website to use as a “one-stop” online database.

Community Support Letters – Community Project Funding Requests:

Community engagement and support is crucial in determining which projects are worthy of federal funding. Only projects with demonstrated community support will be considered. To demonstrate evidence of community support, Members must also submit community support letters into the database as part of their requests.

General Submission Checklist

- Did you upload a **single, signed Member letter** on official letterhead addressed to Chairman Harris and Ranking Member Bishop detailing the request(s)?
- Did you upload **signed Member financial disclosure certifications and federal nexus statements** for each Community Project Funding request on official letterhead addressed to Full Committee Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro?
- Have you validated that the information in the Member request letter and financial disclosure letter matches the information you entered in the database?
- Do you plan to publicly post information for all Community Project Funding requests to the Member’s website on **Friday, April 3, 2026**?

Community Project Funding Requests:

The Subcommittee will include a limited number of community projects this year. Members will be able to submit **up to 20 CPF proposals across all Subcommittees** for the Fiscal Year 2027 process.

Although programmatic and language requests may be made for any account, **only five accounts in the Agriculture appropriations bill will include CPFs. Keep in mind that project funding will depend on available resources and larger requests may have to be reduced.**

All CPF requests must meet applicable eligibility requirements for the program in which the request is made, including underlying statutory and regulatory requirements (most notably applicable cost share requirements and eligible activities). **Please note, nonprofit entities will not be eligible for FY27 CPF project consideration (with the exception of fire stations).** Any CPFs that are funded in an appropriations bill will need to apply to USDA for the award. The application will be reviewed for compliance prior to official award.

To ensure your projects meet eligibility requirements for the Rural Development and Natural Resources Conservation Service accounts, you must consult with your respective State Rural Development or State Conservation office, which can be found below. Failure to confirm eligibility with the State Offices may result in a project not being considered.

Rural Development: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/about-rd/state-offices>

Natural Resources Conservation Services: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/state-offices>

For each CPF request, Members will be asked to respond to a series of questions intended to provide transparency and ensure the project is a valuable use of taxpayer funds. Below are the specific eligibility questions in the database that must be answered for the Agriculture bill:

1. The website address of the proposed recipient.
2. For Rural Development projects, has the recipient secured non-federal funds to meet the cost share requirements?
3. For Rural Development projects, what is the federal cost share / grant amount being requested for the project?
4. For Rural Development projects, what is the total project cost?
5. For Rural Development projects, will this project be phased?
6. For Rural Development projects, is the project for an eligible purpose and does it meet all eligibility requirements, with the exception of any Median Household Income requirements, under current law?
7. Does the entity plan to make grants to other entities from the funds provided and, if so, to whom?
8. Why is the project a priority for the district? Briefly explain the community benefits.
9. Has the project received federal funding before and, if so, how much, when, and from which agency or agencies and program(s)?
10. Have you contacted the State Rural Development [Office](#)/State Conservation [Office](#) to discuss the project and confirm eligibility? (If not, it is required to ensure project eligibility.)
11. With limited funding, if the project cannot be fully funded and must be significantly

- reduced, is it still a viable project and is that acceptable to the recipient? [yes/no]
12. For ARS B&F only, is it an existing USDA owned and operated facility? (It must be, in order to be eligible.)
 13. For ARS B&F only, what is the estimated start date of the project? How soon could the feasibility/engineering design phase commence? [mm/yy]
 14. For ARS B&F only, does the project have distinct and separable phases?
 15. For ARS B&F only, what is the estimated completion date of the project? When does completion of construction occur? [mm/yy]
 16. For Conservation Operations requests only, briefly describe how the project will reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, or other objectives that will help conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources.
 17. For Water and Waste requests only, provide relevant information, such as the number of households, businesses, or farms that would be served.

Additional guidance on Community Project Funding requests for eligible accounts:

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Community Facilities Grants

Grants to purchase, construct, or improve essential community facilities, to purchase equipment, and pay other related project expenses. Examples of eligible projects include but are not limited to: town halls, police or fire departments, and public works vehicles.

Project requests for non-essential facilities such as community gardens or museums will not be considered. Priority will be given to essential projects, such as those focused on public health and safety.

- When considering project submissions, please review thoroughly and vet the projects' background, work/curriculum, and the potential recipients as able—you should only submit projects your Member feels comfortable attaching their name to.

All projects must serve a rural area as specified in 7 CFR 3570.53 (rural areas including cities, villages, townships and Federally Recognized Tribal lands with no more than 20,000 residents). **Except for fire stations, nonprofits will not be eligible for CPF project funding.**

The Member's request must demonstrate community support. Members should ensure that their request provides the most complete description of the project possible. Submissions should include details on all proposed use of funds, activities that will occur, timeline, and detailed information on the complete service territory.

Such requests are also subject to non-federal cost share requirements specified in 7 CFR 3570.63(b). Please review program regulations carefully and ask your respective state Rural Development offices with specific questions related to cost share eligibility. In-kind contributions and other federal formula or grant resources cannot be counted towards match requirements.

Community Facilities grants cannot be used to:

- pay initial operating expenses or annual recurring expenses,
- refinance existing debt,
- pay interest,
- build or repair facilities in non-rural areas, or
- pay for construction costs of facilities that will be used for commercial rental space.

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility and non-federal cost share requirements, and can provide additional information on expectations for recipients including environmental reviews and Build America, Buy America Act (BABA) requirements. For Fiscal Year 2026, the average Community Facilities CPF award was about \$1.1 million.

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Distance Learning and Telemedicine Grants

The Distance Learning and Telemedicine program (DLT) helps rural residents better utilize the enormous potential of modern telecommunications and the internet for education and healthcare, two critical components of economic and community development. The DLT program helps rural communities acquire the technology and training necessary to connect educational and medical professionals with students, teachers, and patients in rural areas.

Grants may be used for audio and video equipment, broadband facilities that support distance learning or telemedicine (not actual broadband), computer hardware or network components/software, and acquisition of instructional programming.

Any requests are subject to all regulations governing the program which can be found at 7 CFR Part 1734. The program requires a 15% match that cannot come from another federal source. Members are strongly encouraged to provide as much detail as possible on how the award will be utilized, what equipment or service will be acquired and any information on population(s) served. The program is intended to serve rural areas with populations of 20,000 or less. **Please note for FY27, nonprofit recipients will not be considered.**

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. For fiscal year 2026, the average DLT CPF award was \$1,200,000.

Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Waste Disposal Grants

The Water and Waste Disposal Grant Program may be used to finance the acquisition, construction, or improvement of drinking water sourcing, treatment, storage and disposal; sewer collection, transmission, treatment and disposal; solid waste collection, disposal and closure; and storm water collection, transmission, and closure.

Members are strongly encouraged to provide details on the number of households and businesses served and details of the exact work to be completed.

Eligible entities include rural areas and towns with population of 10,000 or less and Tribal lands in rural areas. Potential recipients will be required to provide a 25% non-federal cost share. **Please note for FY27, nonprofit recipients will not be considered.**

The State Rural Development Office is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. For fiscal year 2026, the average Water and Waste CPF award was nearly \$1.5 million.

Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) owns and operates laboratories and facilities across the United States. Many of these laboratories/facilities are decades old, have outlived their functional lifespan, and

are badly in need of major repairs, renovation, or replacement. Requests can assist in the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture.

Facility requests must be for ARS-owned facilities or for facilities that are already partnering with ARS. Universities seeking new agricultural and/or veterinary facilities or labs are not eligible.

Members are strongly encouraged to provide details on the research to be conducted, why the research is a high priority, as well as details on the modernization and why it is critical in carrying out the research.

Requested funding for new facilities that do not have an existing ARS tie will not be considered.

Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Operations

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) supports private landowners, conservation districts, and other organizations to conserve, maintain, and improve the Nation's natural resources. Examples of specific objectives include reducing soil erosion, improving soil health, enhancing water supplies, improving water quality, increasing wildlife habitat, and reducing damage caused by floods and other natural disasters.

Members are strongly encouraged to provide details on the work to be done, including if the project will conduct surveys, investigations, or research, and if there is a plan to publish the results of any such work. Members should also describe any preventive measures to be taken, such as engineering operations, methods of cultivation, or changes in use of land.

For FY27, the Subcommittee will only consider projects for funding recipients that are state, local, and Tribal organizations, or conservation districts. Nonprofit recipients will not be considered. Purchase of land and/or fixed equipment are not eligible activities. Projects must have a direct tie to agriculture and/or farmland.

The State Conservationist is a valuable resource to answer program questions, including eligibility. House CPFs in the account averaged about \$1.3 million in FY26.

For specific questions related to CPF accounts, please contact the Subcommittee staff using the email address AG.MemberRequests@mail.house.gov.

Programmatic and Language Requests:

For non-Community Project Funds requests (i.e., programmatic and language requests), insert the appropriate information in each text field in the online database. Examples are below:

Programmatic request: A request to fund a specific program in the bill at a specified level.

Example: *Provide \$90,000,000 for the ReConnect program.*

Language request: A request to include specific bill or report language that does not direct funding to a particular entity but encourages, urges, or directs some type of action by an agency.

Example: *The Committee encourages USDA to study the impact of expanded broadband on rural communities' economic prosperity.*

- **Please note** for **Language** requests: the “Description” and “Proposed Language” columns in the database are different; do not copy-paste the same language in both—please add any background information that will explain the reason for the request in the “Description” column.

If the programmatic or report language request is intended to be for a specific governmental or other entity and not competitively awarded, then it should be requested as community project funding.

If your office has any doubt about whether a programmatic or report language request would instead be classified as a community project fund request, please contact the Subcommittee staff at AG.MemberRequests@mail.house.gov.